

S O M E
DIRECTIONS

Proper to be observed by every One,

Who is to be

C O N F I R M E D,

Before, at, and after

C O N F I R M A T I O N.

By a MINISTER of the Church of *England.*



L O N D O N:

Printed for T. WILLIAMS, in *South Audley-
Street, near Grosvenor-Square.* 1744.

SOME
DIRECTIONS

For the use of the

W. H. H. H.

OF THE

CONFIRMATION



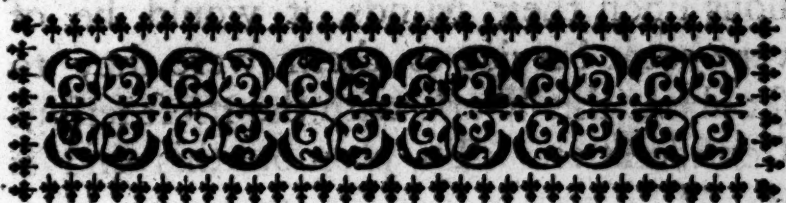
By authority of the

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LONDON

Printed for T. Williams, in Strand Alley,
St. Paul's Church-yard, 1744.



S O M E
DIRECTIONS, &c.



Lthough it may be justly
presum'd that all, who offer
themselves for Confirma-
tion, have been by the care
of their Parents and Friends
in private, and by their
Ministers in publick, sufficiently instruct-
ed in the Nature of Confirmation, and
what the Duties are, which in so pub-
lick and solemn a Manner they undertake
and oblige themselves to perform; yet
that

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that Confirmation may have the greater Effect, and leave the more lasting Impressions upon their Minds, it would be of very great Service to them were they to set about this Work with the most serious Consideration. To promote this end it would be very proper for every one, who offers himself for Confirmation, to take some previous Opportunities (especially on the Morning of the Day upon which he is to be confirm'd) of retiring into his Closet. There let him commune with his own Heart, and with the utmost seriousness ask himself some such Questions, as these.

Q. What is it, that I am now in Confirmation going to do?

A. To renew and ratify in the Presence of God and before the Bishop, and a Congregation of Christians, the Promise and Vow that were made in my Name, by my Godfathers and Godmothers at my Baptism; and to take upon me in a publick and solemn Manner the Profession and Practice of a Christian.

Q. What

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Q. What is it they did promise and vow in my Name?

A. That I should renounce the Devil, and all his Works; that I should believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith; and that I should keep God's holy Will and Commandments, and walk in the same all the Days of my Life.

Q. Do I think that I am bound to renounce, to believe, and to do, as they promised for me?

A. Yes verily I do: and by God's help so I will.

Then kneeling down let him say.

I heartily thank thee, O heavenly Father, that thou hast called me to this State of Salvation through Jesus Christ my Saviour. And I pray unto thee to give me thy Grace that I may continue in the same unto my Life's end. *Amen.*

Then rising up let him proceed in the Examination of himself, saying,

Q. Do I renounce the Devil and all his Works, the vain Pomp and Glory of

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the World, with all the covetous Desires of the same, and the carnal Desires of the Flesh, so that I will not follow, nor be led by them?

A. I renounce them all.

Then kneeling down let him say.

O merciful God grant me the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that I may have Power and Strength to withstand the Temptations of, to have victory over, and to triumph against the Devil, the World, and the Flesh. *Amen.*

Then let him seriously read over the Articles of the Apostles Creed, and what is chiefly learnt by them as set down in the Church Catechism.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth :

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord ; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost born of the Virgin *Mary*, suffered under *Pontius Pilate*, was crucified, dead, and buried, he descended into Hell ; the third Day he rose again from
the

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the Dead; he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the Quick and the Dead.

I Believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholick Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the Body, and the Life everlasting. *Amen.*

2. What do I chiefly learn in these Articles of my Belief?

A. First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who hath made me, and all the World. *Secondly* in God the Son, who hath redeemed me and all Mankind. *Thirdly,* in God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me, and all the elect People of God.

Then let him demand of himself.

2. Do I believe all these Articles of the Christian Faith?

A. All these I stedfastly believe.

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Then kneeling down let him say,

Help thou, O Lord, mine Unbelief;
and preserve thou me pure and incorrupt
in the Faith as it is in Christ Jéfus.
Amen.

Then let him read over deliberately and with an attentive Mind, the Ten Commandments, with the short Exposition of them in the Church-Catechism. The same which God spake in the Twentieth Chapter of Exodus, saying, I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the Land of Egypt, out of the House of Bondage.

1. Thou shalt have none other Gods but me.

2. Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven Image, nor the Likeness of any Thing that is in Heaven above, or in the Earth beneath, or in the Water under the Earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them : for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the Sins of the Fathers upon the Children unto

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to the third and fourth Generation of them that hate me ; and shew Mercy unto Thousands in them that love me and keep my Commandments.

3. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain : for the Lord, will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in vain.

4. Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath Day. Six Days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do ; but the seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God : in it thou shalt do no manner of Work, thou, and thy Son, and thy Daughter, thy Man-servant, and thy Maid-servant, thy Cattle, and the Stranger that is within thy gates. For in six Days the Lord made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh Day ; wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh Day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy Father and thy Mother, that thy Days may be long in the Land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

6. Thou shalt do no Murder.

7. Thou shalt not commit Adultery.

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8. Thou

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8. Thou shalt not Steal.

9. Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's House, thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's Wife, nor his Servant, nor his Maid, nor his Ox, nor his Afs, nor any thing that is his.

Q. What do I chiefly learn by these Commandments?

A. I learn two Things, my Duty towards God, and my Duty towards my Neighbour.

Q. What is my Duty towards God?

A. My Duty towards God, is to believe in him, to fear him, and to love him with all my Heart, with all my Soul, and with all my Strength; to worship him, to give him Thanks, to put my whole Trust in him, to call upon him, to honour his holy Name, and his Word, and to serve him truly all the Days of my Life.

Q. What is my Duty towards my Neighbour?

A. My

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A. My Duty towards my Neighbour, is to love him as myself, and to do to all Men, as I would they should do unto me. To love, honour, and succour my Father and Mother. To honour and obey the King, and all that are put in Authority under him. To submit myself to all my Governors, Teachers, spiritual Pastors, and Masters. To order myself lowly and reverently to all my Betters. To hurt no Body by Word, or Deed. To be true and just in all my Dealings. To bear no Malice, nor Hatred in my Heart. To keep my Hands from picking and stealing, and my Tongue from evil-speaking, lying and flandering. To keep my Body in Temperance, Soberness, and Chastity. Not to covet, nor desire other Mens Goods; but to learn and labour truly to get mine own Living, and to do my Duty in that State of Life, unto which it shall please God to call me.

This done, let him ask himself.

2. Do I purpose obediently to keep God's holy Will and Commandments, and
walk

walk in the same all the Days of my Life?

A. I will, God being my Helper.

Then kneeling down let him say.

Lord, have Mercy upon me; of thy great Goodness pardon all my Transgressions of these thy Laws; incline my Heart to keep them for the Time to come; and to this End write thou, O Lord, all these thy Laws in my Heart, I beseech thee. *Amen.*

But for as much as no one is of himself able to do these Things, nor can walk in the Commandments of God, and serve him without his special Grace assisting him; and as our heavenly Father hath promised his holy Spirit to all, who shall ask it of him, saying, *Ask and ye shall have, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you;* let therefore the Person to be Confirmed in full Dependance upon the Promise of God made to him by his well-beloved Son, meekly kneeling upon his Knees, faithfully

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fully and devoutly address himself to the Throne of Grace, and say,

O Almighty and heavenly Father, give thy holy Spirit unto me that ask; let me that seek, find, open the Gate unto me that knock, that I may be sanctified with the Holy Ghost; and being stedfast in Faith, joyful through Hope, and rooted in Charity, I may so pass the Waves of this troublesome World, that finally I may come to the Land of everlasting Life; there to reign with thee World without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, I give thee humble Thanks that thou hast vouchsafed to call me to the Knowledge of thy Grace and Faith in thee; increase this Knowledge, and confirm this Faith in me evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit unto me, that being born again, and made an Heir of everlasting Salvation, through my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I may continue thy

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thy Servant, and attain thy Promise, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O God, the Strength of all them that put their Trust in thee, mercifully accept my Prayers; and because through the Weakness of my mortal Nature, I can do no good Thing without thee, grant me the Help of thy Grace, that in keeping thy Commandments I may please thee both in Will and Deed, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen.*

GRant, O Lord, that I who am now dedicating myself unto thee, may be endued with heavenly Virtues, and everlastingly rewarded through thy Mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live and govern all Things, World without end. *Amen.*

LORD of all Power and Might, who art the Author and Giver of all good

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good Things, graft in my Heart the Love of thy Name, increase in me true Religion, nourish me with all Goodness, and of thy great Mercy keep me in the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ALmighty God, who hast promised to hear the Petitions of them that ask in thy Son's Name; I beseech thee mercifully to incline thine Ears to me, that have made now my Prayers and Supplications unto thee; and grant that those Things which I have faithfully asked according to thy Will, may effectually be obtained to the Relief of my Necessity, and to the setting forth of thy Glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

UNTO thy gracious Mercy and Protection, O God, I commit myself this Day and evermore. O Lord bless and keep me, O Lord, make thy Face to shine upon me, and be gracious unto me. O Lord lift up the Light of thy
thy

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thy Countenance upon me, and give me Peace now and for evermore. *Amen.*

Upon the Day of Confirmation every one to be confirmed should be particularly careful to be at the Church appointed before the Service begins. During the Prayers, and Sermon, (*if there be any*) he should shew the just Sense of what he is about, by behaving with all imaginable Decency and Seriousness, Attention and Devotion.

The publick Service ended, let every one to be confirmed wait quietly without any Noise or Disturbance till the Parish, to which he belongs, be called. When he approaches the Altar, immediately before the Office begins, let him devoutly offer up some short Prayer, such as this.

Blessed be thy Name, O Lord, that I was born in a Christian Nation, and admitted into thy Church by Baptism, and that I have been continued in
Life

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Life to be able to understand my Baptis-
mal Vow, and to confirm it in my own
Person. Lord, I heartily take that so-
lemn Engagement upon myself, and free-
ly renounce all Sin; the Works of the
Devil, the Vanities of the World, and
the inordinate Lusts and Desires of the
Flesh. And having thus resolved to live
in all dutiful Obedience to thee and
thy Laws, I earnestly implore the As-
sistance of thy Grace, to enable me to
persevere in this holy Resolution, through
Jesus Christ my blessed Lord and Sa-
viour. *Amen.*

¶ *Or this.*

ASSIST me mercifully, O Lord,
in that holy Work I am now
entering upon, and further me in it with
thy continual Help, that in this, and all
my Works begun, continued, and ended
in thee, I may glorify thy holy Name,
and finally by thy mercy obtain everlast-
ing

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ing Life through Jesus Christ my Lord.
Amen.

In order to keep up in every one, who hath been confirmed, such a serious frame of Mind, as becomes him more especially upon so solemn an Occasion, let him be very attentive to the Bishop; go along with him in the Service, and joyn in a charitable and hearty *Amen*, till all of that Course are confirmed. Then let him devoutly joyn in the Prayers offered up for all, and receive with Reverence the episcopal Benediction.

Being dismissed and returned Home, it would be proper for every one confirmed, to retire for some Time (such Time at least as his particular Business, and Way of Life will allow.) There let him in secret offer up the acceptable Sacrifice of a grateful Mind, giving humble and hearty Thanks to God, the Author and Giver of every good Gift, in this, or some such like Form of Thanksgiving.

MOST

MOST gracious God, who keepest Covenant with them that love thee, and walk before thee with their whole Heart ; I praise thy holy Name for the Opportunity I have enjoyed of dedicating myself to thee and thy Service, in the Presence of the Church. Do thou, O merciful Father, who hast hitherto preserved me in Body and Soul, so strengthen and direct me by the gracious Influences of thy good Spirit, that I may constantly profess thy Truth unto my Life's End, and keep a Conscience void of Offence towards thee, and towards Men, and having walked in Newness and Holiness of Life, as becomes a Member of Christ's Church, I may at length partake of that Life and Immortality, which he brought to light through the Gospel, who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the Holy Ghost, one God, World without end. *Amen.*

¶ Or this.

O Lord and heavenly Father; I thine unworthy Servant do most heartily thank thee, for that thou hast vouchsafed me not only to have been born, where the Religion of thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ is publickly professed, and that with all Purity, as the Truth is in Jesus; but also to have been carefully instructed in the same; and to have been on this Day by the laying on of the Hands of the Bishop, (after the Example of thy holy Apostles) as by a lively Sign, assured of thy Favour and gracious Goodness towards me, and that I am thereby become a very Member incorporate into the mystical Body of thy Son, which is the blessed Company of all faithful People, and am also an Heir through Hope of thine everlasting Kingdom. And I most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist me with thy Grace, that I may continue a sound and pure Member of that holy Fellowship, and do all such good Works as thou hast commanded

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commanded me to walk in, through Jesus Christ my Lord, to whom with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all Honour and Glory World without end. *Amen.*

And may the Grace of my Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with me evermore. Amen.

The last Direction necessary, (and very necessary,) to be observed, relates to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and is this.

As there shall none be admitted to the holy Communion, until such time as he be Confirmed, or be ready and desirous to be Confirmed ; So every one, who shall have been Confirmed is under the strongest Obligation to come to that holy Sacrament. Let every one then who hath been Confirmed lay hold of the very first Opportunity after his Confirmation, of receiving the holy Communion ; that the good Impressions made upon his Mind at Confirmation, may be kept up in it and improved.

If

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If any one should not have been sufficiently instructed in the Nature of that sacred Ordinance, and the necessary Qualifications required of those, who come to the Lord's Supper; or hath any the least Doubtfulness or Scruples about it, let him apply himself immediately to the Minister of his Parish, or some other learned and discreet Minister of God's Word, that by the Ministry of God's holy Word, he may receive the Benefit of Instruction, together with ghostly Countel and Advice to the informing his Understanding in the Nature, and inclining his Will to the immediate Performance of that necessary Duty, and persevering in the same with Constancy and Frequency.

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